GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1579
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
DISBANDING OF RAILWAY ENGINEERS TERRITORIAL ARMY UNITS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to disband Railway Engineers Territorial Army Units;

(b) if so, the reasons and the implications thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the surplus manpower will be rationalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU)

(a) Out of the eleven Railway Engineers Regiments andtwo Railway Bridge Construction Companies (TA), three units were disbanded in June, 2000 on the advice of the Ministry of Railways. Government have since decided to dispense with five Defence paid Railway Engineer Regiments and two Railway Bridge Construction Companies (TA) and converting theminto six Infantry Battalions (TA).

(b) This has been necessitated by the exigencies of national security and also the fact that the utilisation of these Railway units has been sub-optimal. Infantry units so created are expected to be utilised to support the regular Army in dealing with insurgency conditions in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States.

(c) The personnel of the Railway TA Units are regular employees of the Indian Railways. Such of them as are rendered surplus after conversion of these units as above will be transferred to the balance three Railway paid Engineer Regiments (TA) and those who cannot be absorbed will be discharged from TA and would continue to hold their respective posts in the Indian Railways. The regular Army personnel forming part of the permanent staff of these Railway Units will be transferred to the general staff pool of the Army.